

REMARKS CONCERNING THE AMENDMENTS

The above amendments have been made in an effort to more clearly define the present invention and to respond to issues raised in the final rejection mailed on January 15, 2004.

All pending claims except for claims 12 and 20 were allowed. Those claims have now been cancelled. **This places the Application into *prima facie* condition for Allowance.**

IN THE ABSENCE OF ALLOWANCE, THIS AMENDMENT IS TO BE PROCESSED IN COMBINATION WITH THE “ALTERNATIVE REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION” FILED WITH THIS AMENDMENT AND PETITION TO REVIVE UNDER 37 CFR 1.137(b).

REMARKS CONCERNING THE REJECTIONS

The above amendment has been made to more clearly define the present invention and to respond to issues raised in the Office Action. Applicant respectfully submits that the above amendments place the application in condition for allowance. All claims now depend from an allowable claim, and all claims should be allowed.

If a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any issues concerning this communication, please contact Applicant's attorney of record, Mark A. Litman at (952) 832-9090.

Respectfully submitted,

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By His Representatives,

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Date: 28 December 2004

By: 
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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this Transmittal Letter and the paper, as described herein, are being deposited in the United States Postal Service, as first class mail, with sufficient postage, in an envelope addressed to: MAIL STOP: AF, P.O. BOX 1450, Commissioner for Patents, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 28 DECEMBER 2004

Mark A. Litman
Name


Signature